

Figure 10-5.—Personal flags of major naval powers.

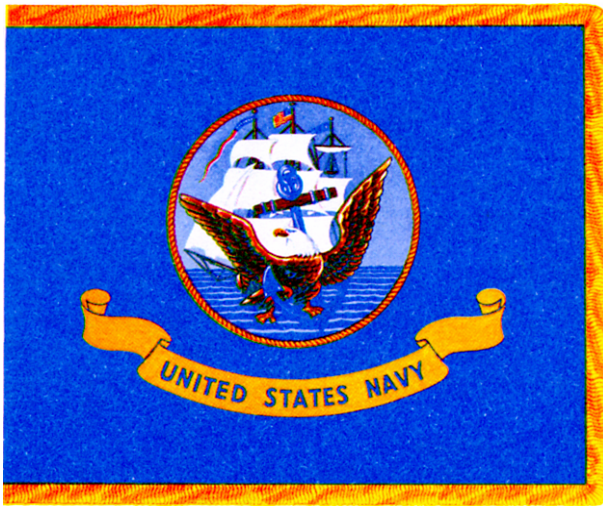


Figure 10-6.—United States Navy flag



Figure 10-7.—United Nations flag.

When United Nations dignitaries are to be honored, U.S. Navy vessels display the United Nations flag in the same manner as they present a foreign ensign during visits of a foreign president or sovereign.

The President of the United States may authorize the display of the United Nations flag for national occasions other than those named.

*Flags, Pennants and Customs*, NTP 13, contains instructions for the display of, restrictions, and prohibitions for the United Nations flag. The following list contains a few of the regulations:

- The United Nations flag may be displayed alone or with other national flags to demonstrate support of the United Nations and to further its principles and purpose.

- When it is displayed with one or more other flags, all flags displayed are flown on the same level and should be of approximately equal size.

- It may be displayed on either side of any other flag without being in a subordinate position to such flag.

- On no account may any flag displayed with the United Nations flag be on a higher level than the United Nations flag, and on no account may any flag displayed with the United Nations flag be larger than the United Nations flag.

- The flag ordinarily is displayed from sunrise to sunset, but it may also be displayed at night upon special occasions.

- The United Nations flag should never be used as a drapery of any sort, nor festooned, drawn back, up, or in folds, but always allowed to fall free.

In a closed circle, a cluster, or a linear or semicircular grouping of flags of the United Nations, flags other than the United Nations flag are displayed in the English alphabetical order of the countries represented, starting from the left and reading clockwise. The United Nations flag may be displayed on a flagpole in the center of a circle of flags or in the center of a line cluster or semicircular display.

## HOMeward-BOUND PENNANT

The homeward-bound pennant is flown by ships returning from extended overseas tours. The pennant is authorized for display by a ship that has been on duty outside the limits of the United States continuously for at least 9 months. It is hoisted on getting under way for the United States and may be flown until sunset on the day of arrival in a port of destination. The pennant is similar to the commission pennant, but instead of the usual seven stars, there is one star for the first 9 months of overseas duty and one star for each additional 6 months. Total length of the pennant customarily is 1 foot for each officer and enlisted crewmember who served overseas for a period in excess of 9 months. When the number of personnel produces an unwieldy pennant, the length of the pennant is restricted to the length of the ship.

Upon arrival in a port of the United States, the blue portion containing the stars is presented to the commanding officer. The remainder of the pennant is divided equally among the officers and enlisted crew.

## RED CROSS FLAG

The Red Cross (Geneva Convention) flag is the distinctive mark flown from the after truck of a hospital ship of the Navy in commission.

In general, the Red Cross flag is regarded as an international guarantee of amnesty from attack. It is displayed ashore at the sanitary branch (dispensary or infirmary) of an activity of the Navy, in company with the national flag, to indicate that the area immediately surrounding it is entitled to protection under the rules of the Geneva Convention. None of the military services, however, flies it on the same halyard as the national flag. Boats engaged in sanitary service and landing party hospital boats display the Red Cross flag from a staff in the bow.

Some nations in the Middle East regard the cross as a symbol contrary to their religious beliefs. Instead of a red cross on the flag, they use designs such as a red crescent on a white field or a red lion and sun on a white field as an indication of a mission of mercy or amnesty from attack.

## CHURCH AND JEWISH WORSHIP PENNANTS

With the sole exception of flag displays at United Nations headquarters, where special rules apply, only the church or Jewish pennant may be flown above the national ensign. The church services must be conducted by a Navy chaplain or visiting church dignitaries aboard ship.

Many ships are fitted with two halyards to the same point of hoist at both the staff and gaff to permit display of the church pennant and ensign simultaneously.

In displaying the church pennant, it is hoisted to the peak or truck, the ensign then being dipped just clear of it. If services are being conducted at the time of morning colors, the ensign is hoisted to the truck at the prescribed time. The church pennant is then hoisted and the ensign dipped just clear of the pennant. If the ensign is displayed at half-mast, the church pennant is hoisted just above the ensign. In lowering the church pennant, the ensign is closed up before the pennant is lowered.

Although the church pennant may not be flown above the national flag ashore, it may be displayed separately.

The Jewish worship pennant is displayed during Jewish religious services afloat and ashore. The same rules governing the display of the church pennant apply to the display of the Jewish worship pennant.

## POW/MIA FLAG

All activities authorized to fly the national ensign are encouraged to fly the POW/MIA flag on occasions such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and National POW/MIA Day.

Ships are to display the flag from the inboard port signal halyard. Ashore display should be beneath the national ensign. The POW/MIA flag can also be used for indoor display to enhance ceremonies.

## AWARD FLAGS AND PENNANTS

When not under way, ships should fly award pennants at the foremast from sunrise to sunset, on the same halyard, one below the other, in order of seniority. When ashore, award pennants may be displayed in the order of seniority from the port yardarm at U.S. naval activities. For commands without an appropriate flagpole, a replica of the award flag or pennant may be displayed in or near the vicinity of the command's quarterdeck. When an award flag or pennant is awarded to a department or division within a command, a replica may be displayed in or near the main entrance to that department or division.

## ABSENTEE PENNANTS

When a ship is not under way, the absence of an embarked officer, unit commander, chief of staff, chief staff officer, or commanding officer is indicated from sunrise to sunset by an absentee pennant displayed from the signal yardarm as prescribed in the following table. In the case of the absence of the commanding officer who is also a unit commander or acting as a temporary unit commander, both absentee pennants will be displayed.

Signal	Meaning
FIRST SUB—starboard outboard	Absence of a flag officer or unit commander whose personal flag or command pennant is flying on this ship.
SECOND SUB—port inboard	Absence of chief of staff or chief staff officer of the commander whose personal flag is flying on this ship.
THIRD SUB—port outboard	Absence of commanding officer (its use immediately shifts to the executive officer when the commanding officer departs for a period of absence of 72 hours or more).
FOURTH SUB—starboard inboard	Absence of civil or military official whose flag is flying on this ship.



Figure 10-8.—Flags of some leading maritime nations.

### NOTE

On a flagship where the commander's personal flag has been hauled down and replaced by a commission pennant, the chief of staff's absentee pennant is not displayed.

## FLAGS OF PRINCIPAL MARITIME NATIONS

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**LEARNING OBJECTIVE:** List some of the flags of the principal maritime nations. Figure 10-8 shows flags and ensigns of some principal maritime nations. Unlike the practice in the United States, a number of countries have ensigns different from their national flags.

although color patterns generally remain constant.

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## SUMMARY

In this chapter you have learned about the basic honors and ceremonies. You have learned of the different rules that govern the display of ensigns and how to determine the appropriate size of ensigns for your ship. You have learned how to challenge small boats at night and the meaning of flagstaff ornaments. You have learned the procedures for returning a dip and which countries are not entitled to a dip. You have learned the rule for the display of personal flags and pennants, the commission pennant, the U.S. Navy flag, the United Nations flag, plus much more.

